

The Community Counts

A monthly newsletter for Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant patients, families and supporters



The volunteer-based Family Support Program is dedicated to caring for, serving, and lightening the burden of the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Community through a comprehensive array of services and resources.

Inside this issue:

New Kids on the Block	2
GogiKids	2
A day in the life on 5200	3
New Super Steppers	3
Volunteer Appreciation Week	4
What We Wish For...	4
Winner's Circle	4

A Heart of Gold

Everyday on 5200, we see signs of thoughtfulness and generosity — patients encouraging each other while walking laps, parents looking out for one another, nurses spending a little bit extra time with a patient. But last month, we experienced a bit of a unique and extraordinary gesture that we thought was worth sharing.

Katie, a 7 year old PBMT patient, knew that her mom’s birthday was coming soon, and that she would likely still be in the hospital. She approached Caroline Sweezy, Child Life Specialist, about throwing a surprise party for her mom. And it couldn’t be on her birthday. “It had to be before her birthday, because I know on her birthday she’d be sad because she was another year older.” So, Katie became the mastermind behind all of the arrangements: she asked her grandma to get a cake and balloons, talked with other parents on 5200 about how to keep her Mom off of the unit while they decorated, picked out decorations, and made her a scrapbook to give her as a gift. All of this occurred without Sandi (Katie’s mom) having a clue what was going on! The big day came and the party was pulled off beautifully. Sandi said that she knew Katie was up to something, but never “had a clue that she would pull that off! I’ve always known that my daughter is extraordinary, and it doesn’t surprise me one bit that she did this.” What a remarkable and memorable birthday, one Sandi will always remember. Way to go Katie!



Surprise! Sandi is overjoyed by the party!



Katie and her mom share a special moment during the party

Rainbow of Heroes Walk

SPONSORED BY THE DUKE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The 7th Annual Rainbow of Heroes Walk will be held on Saturday, May 5th from 9 am– 2pm. It is a walk commemorating and celebrating all of the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant patients and their families. The Walk also serves as a primary fundraiser for the PBMT Family Support Program.

In honor of our inpatient unit, 5200, we walk 5200 yards around the track at the Duke Center for Living. We carry balloons in honor or memory of children who have been through or are currently in the program. As a finale to the Walk, we have a giant balloon release, creating a rainbow-colored skyline in honor of all of our brave heroes.

During the day, there are various activities and carnival-type games for kids of all ages and many of the area mascots stop by to visit. During the walk, there is music, as well as dedications and inspirational messages. The top fundraisers are recognized with prizes for their hard work. A light breakfast and a BBQ lunch will be served to all participants.

We also will have an inpatient celebration on Thursday, April 26th which includes a carnival, a balloon release honoring all patients on the PBMT unit, a Ben and Jerry’s ice cream party as well as other activities. The day will close with a meal provided by the Little Red Foundation. Patients on 5200 will also have an opportunity to earn paper footprints for the laps they walk during the month of April.

Please visit us at: www.rainbowofheroeswalk.org for additional information, including online donations! We hope to see you there!

New Kids on the Block



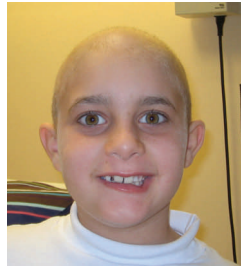
Cassidy, age 6
Adkins, TX



Trey, age 2
Titusville, FL



Hunter, age 2
Titusville, FL



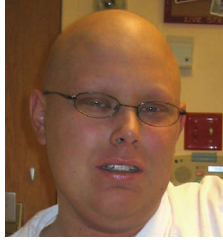
Henrique, age 7
Sao Paulo, Brazil



Elmer, age 1 month
Hempsted, NY



Hannan, age 2
Woodbridge, VA



Alex, age 20
Elgin, SC

“New Kids on the Block” features the patients on the 5200 unit who were admitted in the past month. It is our way to honor them and help the other families get to know them.



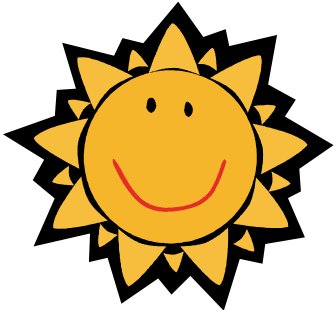
Brock, age 5 months
Winston-Salem, NC



Jacob, age 6
Salisbury, NC



Malachi, age 7
Alexandria, VA



GogiKids team up with FSP

GogiKids, the charitable arm of FreeLife International, has teamed up with Family Support. FreeLife International is the maker and distributor of Himalayan Goji Juice. FreeLife’s guiding principle is “To serve each other by promoting good health, well-being and the opportunity for an abundant life.” They pledge to serve those less fortunate through various activities including their charitable efforts. GogiKids is focused on making a difference in children’s lives around the world. On a trip to Raleigh last month, Kevin Fourney, one of the FreeLife founders, presented a \$5000 check to Jane Schroeder for the Duke PBMT Family Support Program. We are extremely grateful for the generosity that FreeLife has shown our PBMT patients and families.



A day in the life on 5200...



Is that Dr. Evil or just Alex playing Uno?



Katie is working hard on her scrapbook



Is that mask approved by the doctors, Henrique?



Patients and caregivers alike love the exciting Bingo game



Ryan stays warm while cruising in the hall



Aisha and her parents on discharge day!

Walking up a Storm!

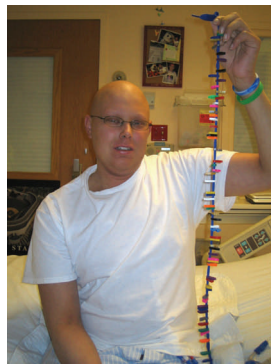
This month we are excited to share that the hallways of 5200 have been a busy place! Many determined patients have been earning footprints for their shoelaces in the Steps to Recovery Program. This month, we would like to feature those patients who have walked their way into our Super Stepper Club by earning more than 50 footprints. Patrick literally ran his way into the club by earning 61 footprints (305 laps). Courtney did a great job too, earning 52 footprints (260 laps) prior to being discharged. Alex has served as an inspiration for younger walkers by earning 58 footprints (290 laps) thus far. Henrique has become the all time record holder, breaking the previous record of 256 footprints by earning 265 footprints—the equivalent of 88 miles! Our two newest members of the Club are Saud and Cassidy. Saud has earned 80 footprints (400 laps), while Cassidy has earned 76 footprints (380 laps). Great job to all of our courageous and determined walkers! Keep up the great work!



Saud



Courtney



Alex



Henrique



Cassidy

Volunteer Appreciation Week

National Volunteer Appreciation week is April 15-22. We are grateful to the countless volunteers who: serve as Best Buddies and Rainbow Volunteers, make quilts and pillowcases, prepare and serve food for the unit, assemble mailings, run errands, solicit donations, facilitate art activities, provide massage and yoga instruction, dress up for holidays, play music, make phone calls, assemble discharge bags, and serve at the Rainbow of Heroes Walk! As you can see, we have literally hundreds of volunteers and supporters (some of whom we've only "met" over the phone!) to help support our patients and families. We are thankful for each and every one of you!

Winners Circle

We are very grateful to all of the people who help support PBMT families through contributing their time, energy, and resources. We would like to thank:

- * Paula Haste and BB&T for their donation of discharge bags
- * Amber Lunn, Priscilla Horvath, Karen Woods, and Nettie from Project Linus and The Summit Church for their donation of quilts and pillowcases for patient welcome bags
- * Shivan Verma for the gift card donation
- * Mr. Pavan Chithapanti for his donation
- * The Ryan P. Kishbaugh Memorial Foundation for their donation
- * Candy Walter for providing weekly massage for caregivers
- * April and Amanda Dyches for assembling fleece blankets for welcome bags.
- * Jim Tate of Wyeth Ayerst for providing pain reliever for the "In Case You Forgot Basket" and to Jenny Edmunds for making the contact on our behalf
- * Phyllis Strawn for the pillowcases for welcome bags
- * Jenny Edmunds for the sunscreen and water bottles
- * Durham Academy Cav's Club for their fundraising efforts and donation of disposable cameras for sibling donors.
- * The family of Dakota Bihn for their donation of Wal-Mart and Target gift cards
- * Stephen Kearney and Joseph Philipose for their donation

The following groups who contributed to our Community Meals program for the month of March:

West Raleigh Exchange Club	Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
Haw River Christian Church	Apex United Methodist Church
East Chapel Hill High School	Macedonia Baptist Church
The Little Red Foundation	St Luke's Episcopal Church
Junior League of Durham	

If we have inadvertently left you off our Winner's Circle, please let us know!

What We Wish For...

We are in need of the following items:

- ✓ Parking passes
- ✓ Grocery store gift cards
- ✓ Restaurant coupons
- ✓ Gas Cards
- ✓ Colored construction paper
- ✓ Colored cardstock

If you can donate an item, please contact Jane Schroeder at (919) 668-1128 or by e-mail at schro005@mc.duke.edu.

The Community Counts is a monthly newsletter produced by the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Family Support Program, distributed free to patients, their families, volunteers, and staff.

Editors: Jane Schroeder

Lindsey Kearns

Rachel Tripp

Duke PBMT Family Support Program

DUMC Box 3350

2400 Pratt St. Suite 1400

Durham, North Carolina 27710

Phone: (919) 668-1128

E-Mail: schro005@mc.duke.edu

Additional and archived newsletters may be downloaded from our web site:

www.cancer.duke.edu/PBMT/support/family.asp

Printed by Millennium Print Group

Raleigh, NC (919) 852-1117

www.mprintgroup.com